Northwest Mission Institute Director Selected
The North Pacific Union Conference executive committee, in its Nov. 13 meeting, voted to approve Jason Worf as the director of the newly-formed Northwest Mission Institute. The NPUC-sponsored and funded institute will be located at Walla Walla University to train Bible-worker coordinators. NPUC leaders hope these trained coordinators will be hired to help local church members learn how to positively engage Bible studies within surrounding neighborhoods and communities. Worf, most recently the Amazing Facts publishing director, will begin his new role in January to develop the new institute and its initial phases of operation. Watch for more details on this program in future issues of the GLEANER.

Hispanic Scholarships Add Value to Adventist Education
More than 200 Hispanic students are in North Pacific Union Conference Adventist elementary and secondary schools this year because of a new scholarship program sponsored through the NPUC education department. Lanny Hurlbert, NPUC vice president for education, says an estimated $90,000 in scholarship funding was matched with local school and conference funds targeted to needy Hispanic students. These additional funds helped several students in Alaska, Idaho and Montana, but most significantly 72 students in the Oregon Conference, 74 in the Upper Columbia Conference and 53 in the Washington Conference. Hurlbert says the response exceeded expectations, but no legitimate request was turned away. Hispanic scholarships will be available again for the coming school year. For more information, contact the NPUC education department at 360-857-7027.
Tillamook County General Hospital (TCGH) has announced plans to open a new rural health clinic with improved ambulance facilities in Manzanita, Ore., by January 2012. Tillamook Medical Group/Manzanita Primary and Specialty Care will offer obstetrics and gynecology, surgery, podiatry and internal medicine. Urgent care will also be available for extended hours during the week and on weekends at the new location just south of the Seaside/Cannon Beach (Ore.) area. “It’s very exciting,” says Melody Ayers, TCGH director of marketing and communications, operated by Adventist Health. “There have been requests from the community for quite some time.” Generator power will allow the facility to provide urgent services, even during the frequent winter storms. Read more of TCGH website HERE.

Lieberman’s Unique View of the Sabbath
Recent articles highlight the spiritual commitment of Sen. Joe Lieberman to the practices of his Jewish faith. Eric Marrapodi, CNN writer, notes Lieberman “looks forward to Fridays, when he can get home, switch his Blackberry off and just be Joe.” In a current article from the Adventist Review, Mark Kellner notes that among many legislative colleagues, including some of his Jewish brethren, Lieberman stands almost alone in his dedication to keeping the Sabbath day holy. Read more about Lieberman’s new book The Gift of Rest and his stance on the seventh-day Sabbath in Kellner’s Adventist Review article HERE. Read additional perspectives and watch a CNN video of the Liebermans’ Sabbath observance in their home HERE.

Christmas Give-away Begins Dec. 1
As a weekly GleanerNOW! subscriber you will be automatically entered into several GLEANER Christmas drawings for special gifts during December. We will announce a new winner each week in the Dec. 1, 8 and 15 e-newsletters for a prize pack provided by the Pacific Press and well-known author, Joe Wheeler. Each prize pack will include two of Wheeler’s famous Christmas in My Heart story books, plus a two-DVD pack featuring the Hope Channel series with Wheeler reading 16 of his Christmas stories. Then, on Dec. 22, the grand prize winner will receive the final prize pack, PLUS a new Kindle Fire tablet! If you are selected as one of the winners, you will receive an email from the GLEANER requesting shipping information so we can send the gifts to the address of your choice.
Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote
Tillamook Hospital to Open Specialty & Urgent Care Clinic in Manzanita

October 27, 2011
Tillamook, OR

To help meet health care needs and community requests for specialty services in North Tillamook County, Tillamook County General Hospital is pleased to announce a new service, Tillamook Medical Group/Manzanita Primary & Specialty Care. With an anticipated opening in early January 2012, this new clinic location will enhance health care services available in the Manzanita area by providing specialty services in addition to urgent and primary care.

Extending the Adventist Health mission of patient-centered care that provides physical, mental and spiritual healing, specialty and urgent care will be key areas of focus of the new clinic. Specialty physician and provider services at this location will include Obstetrics & Gynecology, Surgery, Podiatry and Internal Medicine. Urgent care will be available for extended hours during the week and on weekends. Additional services will be added as identified and requested by the community.

Urgent care services will bring diagnostic imaging, laboratory and urgent medical evaluation to residents and visitors year around, with extended hours during the busy summer tourism months.

The facility will also provide Tillamook Ambulance with a permanent location closer to the center of the area’s emergency medical call volume. The new accommodations for the ambulance crews, who serve in 24-hour shifts, will better support their work with such things as an additional sleeping room and improved computer connectivity with the Hospital.

“We are very excited to be opening this new clinic,” stated Hospital CEO Larry Davy. “We have received many requests for these additional services from the local residents. We are committed to continuing to work in close partnership with Manzanita area community residents and their leaders to meet the needs for expanded access to a wider array of health care services.”

1000 3rd Street, Tillamook, Oregon 97141 503-842-4444
Two days before the tenth anniversary of the largest-ever terrorist attack so far on American soil, the September 11, 2001, hijackings that led to the deaths of 2,977 innocents, Senator Joseph Lieberman, Independent-Democrat of Connecticut, sits in his office calmly conversing with a visitor.

Forget his Sunday schedule of many television interviews related to his work as chair of the Senate’s Homeland Security Committee. Forget the classified briefing he was about to receive on potential September 11 anniversary-related terrorist threats. Forget the many demands on the time and attention of a member of one of the world’s most exclusive “clubs,” as the United States Senate has been called.

Instead, one source of Lieberman’s calm is the approach—about eight hours after our meeting—of the weekly day of rest known as the Sabbath. An Orthodox Jewish believer, Lieberman—with the exception of issues involving the preservation or saving of a life—will not vote in the Senate on the Sabbath; if he either goes home after sundown Friday or has to be on the Senate floor during Sabbath hours, he’ll walk to and from his home in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C., usually accompanied by U.S. Capitol Police officers as bodyguards.

When he became the first Jewish-American to run on a national political ticket—he was then-vice president Al Gore’s running mate in 2000—he did not campaign on the Sabbath, something he’s maintained throughout his political career. Lieberman’s running mate, the Tennessean who at one point was a student at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, was “very understanding” of Lieberman’s Sabbath commitment, the senator said. In fact, the Gores celebrated Sabbath with Lieberman and his wife, Hadassah, more than once after the campaign ended.

Such dedication is not often seen in the halls of Congress. The sixty-third chaplain of the United States Senate, Barry C. Black (USN Ret.), is a Seventh-day Adventist, and in the House of Representatives, Representatives Roscoe Bartlett (R-Md.) and Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-Tex.) are church members. But among many of his colleagues, including some of his Jewish brethren, Lieberman stands almost alone in his dedication to keeping the Sabbath day holy, as Scripture commands (Ex. 20:8-11).

A Message for Today
Lieberman, referencing famed Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, calls the day “a sanctuary in time.” He said the Sabbath “began as a command, but it really is a gift.”

That view—of the Bible Sabbath as a gift from a loving God to all creation—suffused our conversation. Over the summer Lieberman published The Gift of Rest: Rediscovering the Beauty of the Sabbath (Howard Books), a volume that has been endorsed by figures as diverse as Cecil O. Samuelson, president of Brigham Young University, and Archbishop Timothy Dolan, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in New York City.

Book industry leader Publishers Weekly declared: “This deeply sincere and highly readable composition is certain to help people rethink their concept of Sabbath and prod them to rest.”

Lieberman said his rabbi “pushed” him to write the book, curiously enough the seventh volume he’s published, the senator noted with a smile. He said he is familiar with the Seventh-day Adventist understanding of the Sabbath, and sees that there would be understanding by Adventists of his position. He’s discussed Sabbath matters with Chaplain Black, who is the first Adventist to serve as Senate chaplain.

As asked why the Sabbath is important, he responded, “How is it not important? That day reminds me of the opportunities and responsibilities I have in the other six days.” He added that the Sabbath commandment includes the directive “six days you shall labor and do all your work” (Ex. 20:9). And indeed, Lieberman’s book includes a chapter on attitudes...
toward work during those six days.

Lieberman thinks that observance of the Sabbath, while not a point in his book, might help some in political circles to lower the tone of rhetoric seen in today’s overheated environment.

The Sabbath, he said, “encourages humility” by making people disconnect from the normal routine. “If the world needs to find you, it will find you,” he said, adding that “one of the things [about Sabbath] is that it gets you off the treadmill.” And by taking time for family, a worship community, and nature, “you hear things you don’t hear otherwise.”

This promotion of the Sabbath is a far cry from the legislative actions of another, much earlier, senator from the northeastern United States, H. W. Blair of New Hampshire. It was Blair, in 1888 and several subsequent years, who introduced a “national Sunday law,” calling for Americans to respect the first day of the week as a day of rest. Blair’s bills died in committee, but his actions were enough to galvanize the leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to begin work on religious liberty that continues today.

Returning to the Creation question, Lieberman said he wasn’t at all concerned about politicians expressing their beliefs, as several potential Republican 2012 presidential contenders have. However, he said, affirmations of faith must stop at any attempt to breach the establishment clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits the creation of a “state religion.”

Mark A. Kellner is news editor of Adventist Review and Adventist World magazines [Photo: Astrid Riecken]. This article was published November 10, 2011.
My Faith: Sen. Joe Lieberman embraces 'the gift of the Sabbath'

By Eric Marrapodi, CNN Belief Blog Co-Editor

Washington (CNN) – Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Connecticut, looks forward to Fridays, when he can get home, switch his BlackBerry off and just be Joe - Hadassah Lieberman's husband, father of four, grandfather of 11.

Lieberman is an observant Jew who has long made a point to put his faith before politics - even if that means a post-sunset vote in the Senate will force him to walk the four miles from the U.S. Capitol to his Georgetown home.

In keeping the fourth commandment to honor the Sabbath to keep it holy, he doesn't work or get in a car or turn on a light.

Last Friday, he and his wife celebrated a Shabbat dinner, as they do every Friday, in keeping with their faith tradition.

On this evening, Hadassah Lieberman moves with purpose through the house gathering plates and dishes and remarks it will just be the two of them tonight, she and Joey - as she likes to call the senior senator from Connecticut. He putters and mentions he isn't often home in time to help set up.

After a bit of convincing, he agreed to let us come to his house and talk to him about his faith, politics, and his new book, "The Gift of Rest: Rediscovering the Beauty of the Sabbath."

Lieberman sat in a dining room chair in the living room so the shot for the camera would work the best.

"Let me ask you a question," Hadassah chimed in before we began. "Should he wear a jacket? Does he look too casual?"

"He's at home," I explained. "It'll be just fine."

The senator picked up his book and mused that the publisher had sent him four cover choices for the front and told him, "Go with the one your wife likes best." He beamed. She blushed, shot him a smirk, and we began.
Lieberman explained the reason Jews have observed the Sabbath throughout the centuries is that they believe God rested after six days of creation in the biblical account of Genesis. "We aspire to work hard and be creative for six days, and rest on the seventh day, hopefully with some sense of satisfaction about what we've done on the other six," he said.

He walks through the history of the Sabbath and talks about how the observance in the Bible got to where it is today.

As Jewish rabbis began to interpret the Sabbath in their own day they "built a fence around the Sabbath. In other words (they said), 'We're going to give you a list of things you can't do on the Sabbath to protect the essence of the Sabbath as a day of rest, as a day of gratitude to God for creation, as a day of spiritual regeneration,'" Lieberman said.

One way he tries to honor his wife and the Sabbath is to bring home flowers for his wife and the Sabbath table each week. When a reporter on Capitol Hill learned about that a few years ago, Lieberman was dubbed one of the most romantic members of Congress.

The Liebermans sing songs, recite prayers, light candles, and partake in the wine and challah, a twisted bread. The two parts of the bread twisted together serve as a reminder of the biblical story in Exodus where God provides a double portion of manna, the magical bread from heaven, when the Israelites are wandering in the desert so they won't have to go out and gather the bread on the Sabbath.

And they celebrate wherever they are, even on the campaign trail. Hadassah tells a story of a campaign staffer desperately trying to find a challah bread in Wisconsin during the 2000 presidential campaign when Lieberman was campaigning as Al Gore's running mate.

As they walked through the streets to get to temple in Wisconsin with the Secret Service by their side, "people came running out to see the senator and his family on Shabbat," she said. They even got a few "Shabbat shaloms," the Jewish Sabbath greeting.

In a world of always being on and connected, the Liebermans say they relish the Sabbath and that it has sustained their marriage and family for years.

"It's been a life-saver to our family and our marriage and our home life because it's given us a moment to stop and break off from the nonsense we all deal with," Hadassah said. "We can talk to each other without the BlackBerries ringing in our faces."

When the sun sets on Friday, the matching BlackBerries are turned off and they focus on their faith and each other, unless the land line rings and there is a matter of national security.

Sen. Lieberman is in a unique position. His job can stretch and intrude into his religious practice.

He said when he first got into public service he made a conscious decision not to participate in political activities on the Sabbath.
"As much as my ambitions and my obligations would lead me to do that, it wasn't the right thing to do, it wasn't consistent with the Sabbath," he said.

While it does not happen often, he breaks his Sabbath observance when he has government responsibilities he cannot delegate, like voting in the Senate or dealing with matters of national security.

Then he heads back home to be with his family, pray, or to take part in what he called one of "God's great blessings," the Saturday afternoon nap.

Eric Marrapodi - CNN Belief Blog Co-Editor